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DEPARTMENT OF HEA... LIBRARY ...ORITY

URBAN DISTRICT OF ILFRACOMBE

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

and the

Report of the Public Health Inspector

Tele No: Ilfracombe 3677 (STD code: 027 16)

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Ilfracombe.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Avant and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Public Health Staff

Part Time Officer
Medical Officer of Health
E. Williams M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Full Time Officers

Public Health Inspector, Cleansing
Superintendent, Housing Officer,
Petroleum Inspector.
D. G. Andrews, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,

Clerk: R. Prideaux.

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area (Land and Inland Water)	5,627 acres
Population -	
Mid1972 Estimate	9,390
Rateable Value	£916, 269
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£8, 860
Bright Sunshine during 1972	1,574 hrs
Rainfall during 1972	45 ins

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Births: Area Comparability Factor	1.35
Deaths: " " "	0.57

Vital Statistics

Live Births-	
Number	114
Rate per 1000 population	12.5
Rate per 1000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	16.9
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	17
Stillbirths-	
Number	2
Rate per 1000 Total Live and Stillbirths	17
Total Live and Stillbirths	116
Infant Deaths, (deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates-	
Total Infant Deaths per 1000 total Live Births	18
Legit " " " " " " "	11
Illegit " " " " " " "	53
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1000 total live & stillbirths)	26

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)

Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	NIL

Deaths	178
Death Rate per 1000 population	19.5
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor	11.1

Population, Births and Deaths for the Urban District since 1951

Year	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1951	9,228 Census		
1959	8,650	113	130
1960	8.620	105	139
1961	8,701 Census	117	155
1962	8,510	102	145
1963	8,420	120	157
1964	8,200	129	143
1965	8,280	136	152
1966	8.230	140	143
1967	8,240	113	157
1968	8,210	115	154
1969	8,230	110	164
1970	8,170	127	164
1971	9,846 Census	113	158
1972	9,390	114	178

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	51	44	95
Illegitimate	9	10	19
	60	54	114

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	88	90	178

BIRTH RATE(adjusted) AND DEATH RATE

1961	15.3	12.8
1962	13.6	12.4
1963	18.1	12.6
1964	20.1	11.6
1965	19.5	11.5
1966	21.7	11.54
1967	17.4	12.8
1968	17.9	12.6
1969	17.2	12.9
1970	19.8	12.7
1971	16.1	11.1
1972	16.9	11.1
	England & Wales	England & Wales
	14.8	12.1

Table showing the certified Causes of Death in the District during 1972
Registrar General's Figures

	Male	Female
Late effects Respiratory T.B.	1	-
Other Tuberculosis	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	2
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	34	29
Other Forms of Heart Disease	7	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	7
Pneumonia	5	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Appendicitis	-	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1
All other Accidents	2	1
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	88	90

Cancer Deaths

Prostate	1	-
Larynx	-	1
Stomach	-	4
Intestine	-	4
Lung and Bronchus	-	8
Breast	-	2
Uterus	-	1
Others	-	8
Leukaemia	-	1

Total number of Cancer deaths & percentage of Cancer deaths to total deaths

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer deaths	% of Cancer deaths to total deaths
1963	157	27	17.0
1964	143	33	23.0
1965	152	25	16.0
1966	143	28	19.0

1967	157	25	15.9
1968	154	34	22.0
1969	164	30	18.0
1970	164	23	14.0
1971	158	31	19.0
1972	178	30	16.7

Infant Mortality Rate

There were two infant deaths during the year.

There were no deaths due to childbirth during the year.

Cancer of Lungs and Bronchus

Year	Male	Female	Total
1963	3	1	4
1964	10	1	11
1965	7	2	9
1966	10	-	10
1967	11	-	11
1968	4	3	7
1969	4	-	4
1970	1	2	3
1971	5	2	7
1972	7	1	8

Infectious Diseases

There was One infectious disease notification received during the year.

Measles	-
Infective Hepatitis	-
Pul. Tuberculosis	1
Non Pul. Tuberculosis	-

One instance of food poisoning was reported during the year.

Incidence of Lung Tuberculosis

Year	Notification	Death
1963	4	1
1964	1	1
1965	-	-
1966	5	-
1967	-	1
1968	2	-
1969	1	-
1970	-	-
1971	-	-
1972	1	-

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No elderly persons were removed compulsorily from their homes to County Welfare Centres during the year.

Meals on Wheels

This service, distributed by the W.R.V.S., commenced in 1963 by serving 15 meals to persons in need of the service twice weekly, this is now increased to 50 meals per week. These meals being prepared at the County Residential Home, Burrow House, Highfield Road.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

The hospital services for Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas are administered by the South West Regional Hospital Board through the North Devon Hospital Management Committee.

The hospital situated in the town is the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital which has 32 beds.

With the opening of the new maternity unit at Barnstaple, all maternity cases needing hospital delivery are now admitted to Barnstaple.

Small Pox

Any cases of small pox will be sent to Liskeard Small Pox Hospital. Special ambulance transport can be obtained through Plymouth Ambulance Service Tele No: Plymouth 64101.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laborator Service at Exeter.

Ambulance Services

Three ambulances, under the control of the County Health Authority are stationed at Ilfracombe and operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Orthopaedic Clinic

Held at Boutport Street, Barnstaple, the first Friday in each month at 11.00 a.m. by appointment.

Chest Clinic

At the North Devon Infirmary Annexe, Barnstaple. Sessions are held on Tuesdays from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. for Clinic and X-Ray examinations.

Venereal Disease Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Females: Mondays 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Males: Mondays 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Thursdays 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

G. P. Clinic

Devon County Council Health Centre which was opened during 1967.

The following sessions are held at the G.P. Clinic :-

Child Welfare Clinic	1st & 3rd. Tuesdays in the month 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Thursdays 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Consultation School Clinic	1st & 3rd. Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Dental Clinic	Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

By Appointment Only

Opthalmic Clinic	3rd. Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon except February.
Speech Therapy	2nd. & 4th. Tuesdays p.m.
Chiropody Clinic	1st,2nd,3rd & 5th. Wednesdays all day.
Hearing Assessment Clinic	2nd,4th,5th. Tuesdays all day, 4th Thursday all day, 4th. Friday all day
Cytology Clinic	1st. Wednesday alternate months a.m.
Family Planning	1st. & 3rd. Tuesday evening.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Avant and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Seventh Annual Report relating to the work of my Department for the year ending 31st. December 1972.

Ten bungalows and six ground & six first floor flats for elderly persons were let at the Council's new Estate at Oak Tree Gardens, Highfield Road, in January. The remaining twelve ground floor flats for elderly persons and twelve first floor flats for general-need housing were let during July - completing the allocation of tenancies to this 47 unit Estate.

Living under such satisfactory conditions, with all conveniences has certainly appeared to give a new lease of life to the tenants, many of whom are very elderly.

From the Warden's point of view however, there is no doubt that flats constructed in compact blocks make life much easier than the open-plan layout. When called the Warden has a considerable amount of ground to cover. I feel that the 34 units at the Estate are just about the maximum that one Warden can reasonably be expected to cope with.

Some problems were caused by polythene refuse sacks being frequently attacked by dogs. Eventually the sacks were given the protection of galvanised bins, which largely solved the problem.

During the year it was decided to proceed with the construction of eight units at Belvedere Road - to deal with the occupants of Clarence Cottages, which are to be the subject of Clearance Area procedure.

It was also resolved to construct four two-bedroom units or three two-bedroom units & three single-bedroom elderly persons units at Montpelier Road and eight two-bedroom units as an extension to the Queens Avenue Estate.

These new units, whilst proving useful will not reduce the housing list.

The number of applicants by the end of the year were as follows :-

For one-bedroomed elderly persons accommodation.	135
For one-bedroomed general need accommodation.	50
For two-bedroomed general need accommodation.	79
For three-bedroomed general need accommodation.	31

This is an increase of nearly 7% over 1971.

No new public conveniences were erected during the year, but I feel that the town is in any case well-served in this respect. I must pay tribute to the way in which Mrs. Street, Mr. Tuson & Mr. Callaway look after these units. Several letters of appreciation at their cleanliness were received during the year.

The sale of polythene refuse sacks continues to rise annually. Approximately 78,000 were sold during 1972 - compared with 30,000 in 1971 and 13,000 in 1970 when the scheme was started.

Arrangements have been made to purchase sacks in bulk in 1973, in conjunction with Barnstaple Borough Council, Barnstaple R.D.C & Lynton U.D.C., which will considerably reduce the price to the public.

The cleanliness of 'bin areas' in the town's hotels & guest-houses has notably improved due to the ousting of the dustbin.

Some financial loss has been experienced in 'additional collection' dues in the summer period, due to the use of sacks, but the overall advantages greatly outweight this consideration.

There was a considerable upsurge in the number of Improvement Grant applications - 100 during the year and as a result joint inspections with the Surveyor's staff took up much more of my time, so that inspections of food premises generally suffered. As I have indicated in previous reports, the lack of time available to carry out routine inspections in this field, which seems to become more acute every year, is much regretted - it is really <u>most important</u> in a <u>holiday resort</u>, with so many food premises.

In October, work commenced on the construction of the Council's new Swimming Baths at Brimlands. This will cost in the region of £170,000. The fresh-water pool size will be 33½ metres x 10 metres, marginally smaller than the existing baths and will be gas-heated. Special features will be incorporated to assist handicapped swimmers and footbaths will be constructed. Completion is anticipated by January 1974, so that the complex should be ready for use in the summer of that year.

The existing sea-water swimming pool will remain in use until the new one is available. The general fabric is in very poor condition and because of the frequent breakdowns of heating, pumping and filtration plant, it has only been kept operational with great difficulty in recent times.

A very considerable amount of soil was accommodated at Killacleave Tip, as a result of excavation for the new swimming-baths. At times six or more vehicles were travelling constantly in this connection.

Difficulties in keeping the highways clean were experienced at times as a result, although the Contractor provided labour at all times when requested.

Finally once more I thank the Members of the Council, the Council's Officers and my Clerk Mr. Prideaux for their support and help during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Avent and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. G. ANDREWS, Cert. S.I.B.,
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1972

Public Health	Visits	Re-visits
General	141	59
Refuse (including bins)	275	55
Refuse Trade	17	-
Litter	5	-
Accumulation	14	5
Camping & Caravans	17	9
Drains	44	37
Drains tested	2	2
Sewers and Sewage disposal	2	2
Insect Pests	11	5
Refuse Tip	303	6
Rodent Control	3	3
Public Conveniences	30	2
Pet Shops	5	4
Depot	119	-
Means of escape from fire (Section 60)	46	29
Animal Boarding Establishments	1	1
Civic Amenities Act	22	11
Housing		
General	304	154
Grants	50	50
Applications	181	32

Petroleum Act	Visits	Re-visits
Inspections	11	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	78	6
Factories (with power)	6	4
(without power)	-	-
(sites etc.,)	-	-
Food & Drugs		
Regulations	41	22
Ice Cream	5	5
Milk & Dairies	2	2
Meat & Foods	9	1
Interviews etc.,	411	

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no houses registered in the district

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Refuse	261
Drains, sewers & closets	14
Housing matters	14
Holiday accommodation	2
Streams	-
Rats & Mice	93
Animals, birds & insects	11
Smell	1
Fouling of footpaths by dogs	7
Miscellaneous	8
Mud on Highway	1
	412

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS RECORDED

Work done during 1972 as a result of action taken:-

	Informal Notice	Statutory Notice
Drains cleared	16	-
Drains repaired	4	-
Rain water pipe repaired	4	-
Roofs repaired	6	-
Dustbins provided	2	-
Gutters repaired	1	-
Accumulations removed	9	-

During the year 202 informal notices were served.

	Informal Notice
Public Health	119
Offices, shops and Railway Premises Act	9
Food & Drugs	11
Civic Amenities Act	6
Housing Acts	51
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act	4
Petroleum Acts	2
	202

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	6	2	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	4	-	-	-
Total	60	6	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Number of cutworkers in August	Number of cases of default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prose-
Wearing apparel	1	-	-	-	-	-
Making Etc.,	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plastics	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoe repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-

Clean Air Act

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

HOUSING

Number of new houses etc., contructed during the year

(a)	By the Local Authority	24
(b)	By private enterprise	76

Housing Statistics

1.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year	
	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	210
	(c) Number of notices served to remedy defects	16
2.	Houses demolished	6
3.	Unfit houses closed as a result of Action under the Housing Acts	7
4.	Unfit houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remidied	
	After informal action	7
	After formal action under	
	(a) Public Health Acts (1) by Owners	1
	(2) by L.A. in default	1
	(b) Housing Acts	-

Council Housing

Mrs. W. E. Smith continued as Warden for Wilder Park elderly persons flats and Mrs. H. Hollings as Warden for Oak Tree Gardens Estate, which was completed during the year and consists of ten bungalows and twenty-four flats for elderly persons and twelve one-bedroom general need flats.

Many of the tenants at Oak Tree Gardens are very elderly, having waited a considerable time for suitable accommodation and the Warden is kept very busy at times attending to their needs.

Trouble was experienced with defects at Oak Tree Gardens, principally in the new bungalows. The main problems were penetrating dampness at the gable ends of the units concerned and around external doors - both gable-ends and doors being exposed to the prevailing winds & rain.

The Estate will not be 'taken over' by the Council until these and other defects have been satisfactorily remedied by the Contractor.

Improvement Grants

During the year twenty-one Discretionary Grants were approved by the Council and three Standard Grants.

Re-housing

During the year 28 Council houses were let as a result of tenancy changes and 21 tenants exchanged occupation of Council - owned dwellings. Forty-six units of one-bedroom accommodation were let at Oak Tree Gardens.

Overcrowding, Certificates of Disrepair & Qualification Certificates

One case of overcrowding was reported during the year - which was abated after informal action.

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

Four applications were made for Qualification Certificates, one being granted, two refused and one being withdrawn.

Caravan Site & Control of Development Act 1960

No new site licences were issued during the year. There are three licenced sites in the area and one additional Site is operated by the Caravan Club.

Several sites are used for tenting purposes for periods not exceeding 28 days, in summer-time.

One tenting site is controlled by the Camping Club. Sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory on all sites.

26 inspections were made during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Ilfracombe area is under the control of the North Devon Water Board. The sources from which water is available are:

(a) Intakes on tributaries of the River Bray and a small impounding reservoir at Challacombe.

(b) Two small impounding reservoirs at Slade.

The reliable yields of both sources is 0.35 M.G.D. and 0.25 M.G.D. respectively.

During the year, 153 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and all but 4 of these were entirely satisfactory. In the case of these 4, repeat samples were taken from the same location and the results of the second samplings were satisfactory.

Work is now well in hand with the laying of the new trunk main from Pilton to Hore Down and it is anticipated that the work should be completed by the summer of 1973. As and when water becomes available from the Board's new Meldon scheme in order to relieve the demand on the existing sources, surplus water from Wistlandpound Reservoir will be used to augment the present Ilfracombe supplies.

The new re-inforced concrete service reservoir (capacity approximately one million gallons) at present under construction to the North East of the town and to be known as Shield Tor Reservoir is nearing completion and will be used during the coming summer. This will help to maintain supplies to the upper parts of the town and it is anticipated that areas which previously suffered from severe pressure losses during the holiday Season will find that supplies are improved.

No action has been necessary during the year with regard to contamination.

Swimming Baths

The Council operate large covered sea water swimming baths, and there are also private swimming baths attached to Hotels and Chalet Sites. The water is filtered and chlorinated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

No premises are used as slaughterhouses in the district.

The number of food and other shops in this area are:-

Cafes	59
Canteens	9
Bakehouses	4
Grocers & dairies	40
Greengrocers	11
Butchers	11
Fishmongers	2
Fish & Chips	5
Confectioners, Tobacconists & Newsagents	25
Public Houses & Licenced Premises	24
Ladies & Gents Outfitters	24
Boot & Shoe Shops	4
Multiple Stores	4
Jewellers & Opticians	5
Chemist & toiletries	5
Fancy Goods, Toys & Photography	29
Hairdressers	9
Furniture Shops	2
Ironmongers, Decorators & Cycles	11
Electrical Goods	4
Pet Shops & Seed Merchants	3
Garage & Petroleum	17
Betting Shops	4
Florists	3

Unsound food surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

20 cwts 28 lbs.

Unsound food is disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse tip.

In most cases the food condemned originated from deep freeze cabinets which had broken down.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Table A. Registration and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	Number of prems. regd during year	Total number of regd. premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	40	12
Retail Shops	5	98	20
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	2	-
Catering Establishments	-	37	12
Canteens	-		
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-
Total	6	178	44

Table B. Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises 78

Table C. Persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed M	F	Total
Offices	93	81	174
Retail Shops	138	247	385
Wholesale Depts., Wharehouses	5	2	7
Catering establishments open to the public	111	202	313
Canteens	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
	347	532	879

Table D. Exemptions. NIL

Table E. Exemptions. NIL

Table F. Inspectors

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act 1

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act None

MILK SUPPLY

The County Council's Licence permits pasteurising at the Local Dairies under the Food & Drugs Act.

Ice Cream

No samples were taken during 1972.

There is 1 premises registered for the manufacture, 50 premises licenced for the sale and 1 for the storage of ice cream.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

63 visits were made in connection with the regulations

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

Devon County Council is the Food & Drugs Authority for this area. All complaints relating to unsound food are passed to the County Council for any action that that Authority consider necessary.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Rodent Control

This service is carried out on a part-time basis by one of the Council's employees. Warfarin poison is used in all cases. During the year no major infestations of rats or mice were reported.

147 first inspections were made during the year and 540 re-visits.

Pest Control

Advice is given on the best method to exterminate wasps, the Rodent Operator dealing with nests on pleasure grounds and rights of way. Advice is also given on the elimination of cockroaches from hotel kitchens, many of which are under contract with Pest Control Firms.

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Vehicles

The three vehicles in use on this service are:-

1. Shelvoke & Drewry T.N. Type - 20 cubic yard capacity (April 1966)
2. Dennis Paxit 2A - 24 cubic yard capacity (May 1968)
3. Ford Transit - 5½ cubic yard capacity (July 1969).

The third vehicle operates during the summer months only - May/October. The Council's very old Shelvoke & Drewry fore & aft tipper vehicle was disposed of during the year. It could no longer be used as it did not satisfy the new Test Regulations.

During the year a considerable sum was spent on repairs and maintenance principally due to the fact that it was decided to have a new engine and rear Paka-box unit fitted to the T.N. Type Shelvoke & Drury vehicle rather than invest in an expensive new machine, especially in view of the forthcoming Local Government re-organisation, when standardisation of vehicles may be considered desirable.

Collection

Household refuse continues to be collected weekly and hotels and guest-houses receive two collections in the summer-time. Trade refuse is collected weekly - charges varying from £1.65 per annum. Additional collections are available in summer-time - the charge being 50p per bin per collection - or 25p per refuse sack. This encourages the use of refuse sacks, rather than dustbins. Between 65,000 & 70,000 polythene refuse sacks were sold during the year. Administration costs of 5% only are charged on accounts. Bulk buying reduces the cost to the purchaser. The large increase in the use of sacks is gratifying.

Disposal

The use of Berry Down tip in the area of the Barnstaple Rural District Council as a relief tip commenced in February. Unfortunately because of the very exposed nature of the site and the very high levels at which the refuse had to be tipped considerable troubles were experienced with paper blowing onto surrounding agricultural land.

In addition, two large tip fires occurred and finally after only about two months use, the Urban District Council had no alternative but to return to the use of it's own tip at Killacleave.

The County Council Feasability Study on Refuse Disposal was received during the year. As far as Ilfracombe is concerned, whose tipping space is getting very limited at Killacleave - it is proposed at an early date to construct a Transfer Station to convey the area's refuse to either Seven Brethren Bank tip at Barnstaple or to Fremington tip, in the areas of Barnstaple Borough and Barnstaple R. D. C. respectively.

It is then proposed to construct an incineration plant to receive all refuse from the North Devon area and which it is hoped will be operational by 1977. All tips will be phased out gradually.

As the County Council will be responsible for refuse disposal from April 1974 onwards that Authority agreed to allocate to this Authority the sum of £15,000 towards the Transfer Station project, in order that this matter can proceed, as a matter of urgency.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1961

Three shops were licenced under the above act.

List of Public Conveniences in the Urban District :-

Situation	Accommodation	
	Females	Males
Hele	2 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Brimlands	2 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Shearclose	3 W.C's	3 W.C's 4 stall
St. James Park	1 W.C.	1 W.C. 2 stall
Pier	7 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Cheyne	2 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Pavilion	14 W.C's	6 W.C's 8 stall
Market Square	8 W.C's	3 W.C's 9 stall
Northfield Road	3 W.C's	3 W.C's 5 stall
Church Street	4 W.C's	3 W.C's 6 stall
Bicclescombe Park	2 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
The Cove	3 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Lee	4 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall
Oxford Park	3 W.C's	2 W.C's 3 stall

Conveniences at the Pier continued to be cleaned by the Harbour staff and Bicclescombe Park toilest by the Parks Dept., staff.

All other toilets are cleaned frequently every day during the summer-time but it was decided to dispense with Sunday cleaning of toilets in the winter of 1970/71. No adverse reports have been received as a result of this action.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

During the year 20 renewal licences permitting the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures were issued.

The quantity of petroleum spirit involved was 89,310 gallons.

Licence fees received by the Local Authority amounted to £81.00

15 Inspections were carried out during the year, and 5 tanks were the subject of satisfactory 'Ullage tests' during the year.